

OFFICE
OF THE
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
REPORT
FOR
1992

THE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

There was no election activity in 1992. Accordingly, there is no need to invoke section 46(4) of the Elections Ordinance, No. 7 of 1977, as amended. However, as in 1991, a brief administrative report on the work of the office for the year 1992, is presented below.

MATTERS OUTSTANDING FROM THE 1990 GENERAL ELECTIONS

2. The only candidate's deposit which remained outstanding in 1991, was refunded in 1992 after the candidate concerned presented his receipt.

3. The ballot boxes remained locked up and locked away in a special room. The contents are yet to be destroyed. They were retained because of the possibility of their being needed for a case pending before the High Court. Advice was sought as to whether it was necessary to retain them, but there was no response to the request for advice.

BUDGET

4. In 1991 the salary of the Senior Executive Officer was provided under Head 5:1 and the salary of the Supervisor of Elections and other office expenses were paid from a sum provided under Head 5:26 Election Expenses.

The latter funds were transferred to this office for management. In 1992, however, salaries for both Supervisor of Elections and the Senior Executive Officer were provided under Head 2:1 Deputy Governor, Personal Emoluments, and funding for office expenses were provided under Head 2:27 Election Expenses. These funds were administered by the Deputy Governor's Office.

ADMINISTRATION

5. A skeleton staff of one (Senior Executive Officer) continued to man the office during the year. A substitute was provided by the Personnel Division during the absence of the Senior Executive Officer on vacation leave. This officer continued to fill her day by assisting the Companies Registry and the Registry of Births and Deaths.

6. The Supervisor of Elections continued the once or twice weekly visits to the office. More often visits were made if necessary. Any additional communication was by telephone. As in 1991, all material for typing was drafted at home and brought to the office for typing.

REGISTRATION ACTIVITY

7. Registration was approximately seven times as active in 1992 as it was in 1991. Twenty-seven persons were registered as voters and one was rejected as not being qualified. All districts save the 2nd District were represented. (See Appendix I).

8. Deletions from the register produced a negative effect on the gains in registration. One registered voter (an American) requested that his name be removed from the voter's list. This was because he was changing his domicile from the BVI to the USVI and would be applying for registration there. One voter was found to be ineligible and her name was accordingly struck from the register. Seventy-four(74) names were removed on account of the death of the voters concerned. The largest numbers were from the 9th, 3rd and 1st districts, in that order. The total number removed was 76. (See Appendix II).

Contact was established with the Office of Statistics in the USVI to enquire about the possibility of obtaining the names of voters who had died during the year, but this effort proved futile.

9. Attempts via telephone were made by the Supervisor of Elections to establish contact with her counterpart in the US Virgin Islands for the chief purpose of comparing

experiences in continuous voter registration. All attempts were unsuccessful, until it was discovered, (too late for this Report) that the telephone number being used was no longer in operation. This information should make it possible for contact to be established in 1993.

PUBLICITY/PUBLIC RELATIONS

10. Two GIS interviews were done during the year, each of which was re-broadcast once. In addition, a notice was published in the Gazette four times during the year inviting qualified persons to register. This was in accordance with section 3A(1)(c) of the Elections Ordinance, as amended. At each publication in the Gazette, a shorter notice was forwarded to the Chief Minister's Office with a request for its publication in both newspapers as well as on radio.

11. During the early part of 1992 a brightly coloured poster was displayed at various points in the Territory as a means of providing a visual reminder to qualified persons to get registered. An increase was noticed soon after the poster was displayed.

12. An announcement on Cable TV during the year was short-lived due to technical problems at the station requiring reprogramming of all notices. The election notice never re-appeared on the screen.

ELECTIONS ACT

13. As at the end of 1992, the Supervisor had not been informed of any decisions taken by Government on the several recommendations made in 1990 Elections Report for improvements to the electoral system. It seemed best to await such action before investing in necessary public education campaigns. Since, however, it appears that no action is to be taken to remedy the deficiencies pointed out, education could proceed on the basis of the status quo.

It should be noted, however, that as important as public voter education may be, there are other very important reasons why maintaining the status quo may not be in anyone's best interest, as another look at the 1990 Election Report would reveal.

Supervisor of Elections

APPENDIX I

Voter Registration 1992

First District	4
Second District	0
Third District	4
Fourth District	2
Fifth District	3
Sixth District	7
Seventh District	2
Eighth District	2
Ninth District	3
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Total	27
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APPENDIX II

Deletions on Account of Death of Voters

First District	9
Second District	6
Third District	11
Fourth District	8
Fifth District	8
Sixth District	6
Seventh District	7
Eighth District	8
Ninth District	13
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Total	76
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